

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A map displaying apparatus that receives scalable map data from a map data provider for a user, the apparatus comprising:

a memory that receives data from the map data provider based on a map drawn to a first scale, and stores the received data as first data;

an input unit that generates an area selection signal to select an area on the first scale map in response to an input of the user;

an area selection unit that selects the area in response to the area selection signal, and outputs a transmission request signal for second data that corresponds to data on a map drawn to a second scale for the selected area;

a network interface unit that transmits the transmission request signal to the map data provider and receives the second data from the map data provider;

an analysis unit that receives the second data from the network interface unit, analyzes the second data, and converts the second data into third data configured for display on an output device;

an adjusting unit that sets a size of the third data equal to a size of the selected area to obtain fourth data; and

a combination unit that combines the fourth data with the selected area associated with the first data.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the user specifies the area to be selected by operating the input unit to generate the area selection signal.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the user selects a point on the map using the input unit, the area selection unit selects a predetermined area based on the selected point.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second scale is lower than the first scale.

5. A map displaying method in which scalable map data is received through a network from a map data provider for a user, the method comprising:

(a) receiving data that is based on a map drawn to a first scale from the map data provider, and storing the received data as first data;

(b) generating an area selection signal indicative of an area on the first scale map;

(c) selecting the area associated with the area selection signal;

(d) requesting that the map data provider transmit second data that corresponds to data on a map drawn to a second scale for the selected area;

- (e) receiving the second data from the map data provider;
- (f) analyzing the second data and converting the second data into third data that can be displayed on an output device;
- (g) setting a size of the third data equal to a size of the selected area to obtain fourth data; and
- (h) combining the fourth data with the selected area associated with the first data to generate an output that can be displayed on the output device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein in step (b), the user specifies an area by operating the input unit to generate the area selection signal.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein when the user selects a point on the map using the input unit in step (b), a predetermined area based on the selected point is selected in step (c).

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the second scale is lower than the first scale.

9. A computer readable recording medium which stores a program having instructions for executing a map displaying method, in which scalable map data is received through a network from a map data provider for a user, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving data that is based on a map drawn to a first scale from the map data provider, and storing the received data as first data;
- (b) generating an area selection signal indicative of an area on the first scale map;
- (c) selecting the area associated with the area selection signal;
- (d) requesting that the map data provider transmit second data that corresponds to data on a map drawn to a second scale for the selected area;
- (e) receiving the second data from the map data provider;
- (f) analyzing the second data and converting the second data into third data that can be displayed on an output device;
- (g) setting a size of the third data so as to be equal to a size of the selected area to obtain fourth data; and
- (h) combining the fourth data with the selected area associated with the first data to generate an output that can be displayed on the output device.

10. The computer readable recording medium of claim 9, wherein in (b), the user specifies an area by operating the input unit to generate the area selection signal.

11. The computer readable recording medium of claim 9, wherein when the user selects a point on the map using the input unit in (b), a predetermined area based on the selected point is selected in (c).

12. The computer readable recording medium of claim 9, wherein the second scale is lower than the first scale.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said map data provider is a networked server.

14. The method of claim 5, wherein said map data provider is a networked server.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein said map data provider is a networked server.

16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said output device is a screen.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein said output device is a screen.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user input is received from one of a wireline and wireless processor.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said wireline processor is a personal computer, and said wireless processor is a personal digital assistant.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein said user input is received from one of a wireline and wireless processor, said wireline processor is a personal computer, and said wireless processor is a personal digital assistant.